

Application No. 10/601,851

Attny. Docket No. 506 US

REMARKS**I. STATUS OF CLAIMS**

Claims 18 – 22 are pending. Claims 1 – 17 have been cancelled without prejudice and claims 18 – 22 are new.

Support for the claim amendments can be found in the original specification at the following locations:

- Claim 18: page 6 to 7 - paragraph [0025]; Examples
- Claim 19: page 8 - paragraph [0029]
- Claim 20: page 8 - paragraph [0029]
- Claim 21: page 2 - paragraph [0004]; Table 1
- Claim 22: page 14 - paragraphs [0049] and [0051]; Examples

II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The invention, as now claimed, is directed to a method of using a masking film. All of the previously submitted claims, which were directed to a masking film, have been cancelled.

III. INDEFINITENESS REJECTIONS

The Office has rejected claims 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd ¶, as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicants regard as the invention.

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Claims 16 and 17 have been cancelled, and thus the Office's rejection under § 112 is now moot.

IV. PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

The Office has rejected claims 1 – 4 and 6 – 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over US 5,286,781 (Gotoh) in view of US 5,693,405 (Harvie); and claim 5 as being obvious over Gotoh in view of Harvie and US 6,407,788 (Okumura).

Claims 1 - 17 have been cancelled without prejudice, and thus the Office's rejection under § 103(a) is now moot.

Applicants believe that the invention, as currently claimed, is patentably distinct over the cited references for at least the reason that none of these references teach or otherwise suggest a method of removably adhering a masking film comprising block-copolymers to a rough textured surface. In other words, the amendments makes clear that the innovation is using the specified masking tape for relatively rough surfaces.

The only cited reference that teaches or even suggests adhesion of a masking film or tape to a surface of a particular roughness is Harvie. However, the masking film described by Harvie expressly adheres to the smooth surface of a substrate, purportedly "due largely to the intimate contact between the smooth surface of the masking film and the smooth surface of the substrate." See Harvie, col. 6, lines 36 – 52. Harvie defines smooth substrates as having a surface smoothness in the range of about 0.1 to about 150 Ra.

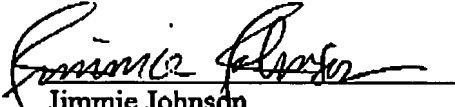
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V. CONCLUSION

In view of the proposed claim amendments and the arguments presented above, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early notice thereof is earnestly solicited. The Office is invited to contact the undersigned counsel in order to further the prosecution of this application in any way.

Respectfully submitted,

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